

# CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

## Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES  
EDITOR

## *State Health Department Seventy Years Old*



The California State Board of Health was organized by act of the Legislature April 15, 1870, and has now attained the ripe age of three score and ten. For 70 years the state public health organization in California has functioned continuously, and only one other state health department, Massachusetts, has served for a longer period of time. The Massachusetts State Board of Health was established six months prior to the California organization.

The idea of a state health department in California originated with Dr. Thomas M. Logan, a southern physician, who arrived in California in January of 1850. Dr. Logan had practiced medicine in Charleston, South Carolina, and in New Orleans, where he was medical superintendent of a government hospital for veterans of the War of 1812. This institution was abandoned in 1849 and Dr. Logan sailed from New Orleans to San Francisco by way of the Cape of Good Hope in a 60-ton schooner.

Upon arrival in San Francisco, almost 9 months later, he became physician to the Strangers' Aid Society, probably the first social welfare organization on the Pacific coast. In April he went to Sacramento, where he found the streets inundated, with row boats in common use for transportation throughout the city. After spending the summer

of 1850 in the mining regions, he returned to Sacramento in August of that year, where he established a medical practice. Together with Dr. E. S. Cooper he issued a call for the organization of the California State Medical Society, and the organization of that group was effected in March of 1856 at Sacramento.

Dr. Logan enjoyed the rare privilege of advanced study in European centers in 1832, where he developed a scientific spirit. He acquired instruments from the Smithsonian Institute at Washington for the measurement of precipitation, temperature, humidity and other meteorological data, and from the time of his arrival in California, made daily recordings of all data pertaining to the weather. He retained membership in scientific societies on the Atlantic seaboard and thus kept in touch with the progress of medicine along scientific lines.

He was chairman of a Committee on Medical Topography of the American Medical Association and the early reports of that committee possessed a marked leaning toward procedures that were of a true public health nature. He contributed articles to the early medical journals, and, as chairman of the committee referred to sent out questionnaires to practitioners throughout the state, in order that he might obtain more accurate information relative to the prevalence and characteristics of the various

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communicable diseases. His early reports on typhoid fever, smallpox and other diseases are of extreme interest.

Through his own efforts, with little assistance, he secured the introduction of a bill that provided for the organization of the California State Board of Health. The bill was sponsored by Senator Burnett of Sonoma County, who died before its final enactment. This bill provided merely for the organization of a state board of health to be composed of seven doctors of medicine. The board was given virtually no powers, and its early appropriation was decidedly meager. Dr. Logan was made the first secretary and executive officer. Other members of the first board were Henry Gibbons, Sr., M.D., of San Francisco, who was its first president, L. C. Lane, M.D., of San Francisco, J. F. Montgomery, M.D., of Sacramento, F. Walton Todd, M.D., of Stockton, C. C. Stone, M.D., of Marysville and Luke Robinson, M.D., of Colusa. Dr. Logan worked assiduously in the development of public health legislation designed to protect the public through the control of communicable diseases.

He contacted a heavy cold in February of 1876, while laboring in the Legislature to put teeth into the public health laws of that time. This malady developed into pneumonia and he died at the age of 64. Since Dr. Logan, 13 doctors of medicine have served as executive officer of the state public health organization. Their names and the periods during which they served are as follows:

F. W. Hatch, Sr., M.D....	Feb.	1876-Nov.	1884
Gerrard G. Tyrrell, M.D..	Nov.	1884-Apr.	1891
J. R. Laine, M.D.....	Apr.	1891-Jan.	1897
W. P. Mathews, M.D....	Jan.	1897-Apr.	1903
Newel K. Foster, M.D....	Apr.	1903-Aug.	1909
Wm. F. Snow, M.D.....	Aug.	1909-Nov.	1913
Donald H. Currie, M.D..	Jan.	1914-Aug.	1915
Wilbur A. Sawyer, M.D...	Sept.	1915-Jan.	1918
Wilfred H. Kellogg, M. D.	Jan.	1918-Mar.	1920
Irving R. Baneroff, M.D..	Mar.	1920-Aug.	1920
Walter M. Dickie, M.D...	Aug.	1920-Jan.	1931
Giles S. Porter, M.D....	Jan.	1931-Mar.	1934
J. D. Dunshee, M.D.....	Mar.	1934-Sept.	1935
Walter M. Dickie, M.D...	Sept.	1935-	

#### CHANGES AMONG HEALTH OFFICERS

Dr. William Gilliatt has been appointed health officer of Coalinga, to succeed Dr. Bryson E. Cox. The city of Woodlake in Tulare County has recently been incorporated and the administration of its public health affairs is now under the supervision of Dr. Ellis Sox, health officer of Tulare County.

#### MANY EPILEPSY CASES REPORTED

Under an amendment to the Health and Safety Code that became effective September 19, 1939, epilepsy became a reportable disease. In the period of six months that has followed the enactment of the law, 2,780 cases of epilepsy have been reported to the California State Department of Public Health. Most of these have been reported from those counties where state hospitals are located. Out of the 2,780 cases reported, considerably more than half have been reported in those counties where such institutions are located.

Los Angeles County, because of its high population and because of the presence of a state hospital within its borders, reported the greatest number of cases—966. Sonoma County, with its state home for the feeble-minded, reported the second greatest number—644. San Joaquin, San Bernardino and Santa Clara Counties, within each of which a state hospital is located, followed in order named, with reports of 195, 184 and 126 cases, respectively.

The following table gives the numbers of cases of epilepsy reported by counties, during the period September 20, 1939, through March 30, 1940:

Alameda -----	123	San Francisco ----	126
Butte -----	3	San Joaquin -----	195
Contra Costa -----	2	San Luis Obispo --	7
Fresno -----	28	San Mateo -----	36
Inyo -----	1	Santa Barbara ----	4
Kern -----	6	Santa Clara -----	126
Lake -----	2	Santa Cruz -----	3
Los Angeles -----	966	Sierra -----	1
Madera -----	2	Solano -----	1
Marin -----	2	Sonoma -----	644
Mendocino -----	80	Stanislaus -----	2
Monterey -----	8	Trinity -----	1
Napa -----	113	Tulare -----	9
Orange -----	5	Ventura -----	79
Riverside -----	4	Yolo -----	3
Sacramento -----	4	Yuba -----	1
San Benito -----	1		
San Bernardino ---	184	Total -----	2,780
San Diego -----	8		

We believe it to be the duty of every citizen to do all within his power to improve the conditions under which men work and live. We believe that that man renders the greatest social service who so cooperates in the organization of industry as to afford to the largest number of men the greatest opportunity for self-development and the enjoyment by every man of those benefits which his own work adds to the wealth of civilization—John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

## TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION TO HEAR DE KRUIF

Paul de Kruif, bacteriologist and writer, will be the principal speaker at a public dinner in the St. Francis Hotel the evening of Tuesday, May 28, under the auspices of the San Francisco Tuberculosis Association.

The author of "Microbe Hunters," "Men Against Death" and a half dozen other books on medical and scientific topics in popular style, will speak on recent progress against the great plagues, particularly tuberculosis, and point out what can be done to speed up the campaign for better health.

De Kruif is noted for dramatizing in his literary works the achievement of medical science and for translating the records of these achievements from the bewildering terms of the laboratory into popular language that everyone can understand.

Above all, he is noted for determined insistence that the life-saving discoveries of science be not buried in laboratory files and medical libraries but that they be put to work promptly for the benefit of all the people.

De Kruif was a captain in the Sanitary Corps in the first World War. Later he was a "microbe hunter" for the Rockefeller Institute. He is secretary of the National Commission for Infantile Paralysis Research. He collaborated on "Yellow Jack," the play that brought to the screen the U. S. Army's historic conquest of yellow fever.

"The Fight for Life," a dramatic film recently completed for use by the government in a campaign to reduce mortality at childbirth, is based on one of de Kruif's books.

He has been credited with being principally responsible for the so-called "Detroit plan" of fighting tuberculosis. Municipal authorities appropriated a million dollars to be spent in five years for hunting out unknown cases of tuberculosis in Detroit after they were convinced that by discovering the disease earlier and curing it quicker they will get the money back many times over in the form of reduced hospital costs.

The dinner will be informal and open to the public at a charge of two dollars for each person. Reservations may be made through the office of San Francisco Tuberculosis Association, 604 Mission Street, telephone DOuglas 1104.

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Following the line of least resistance is what makes men and rivers crooked.—Blemis Blotter.

## SAN JOSE ISSUES ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

Dr. H. C. Brown, city health officer of San Jose, has issued the report of his department for the year 1939. No cases of rabies have occurred in San Jose since July of 1939. During the calendar year, 1,919 stray dogs were captured and 140 were placed under quarantine. A total of 163 persons was bitten by dogs, 7 of which were rabid. During the year, 20 persons took the Pasteur treatment. A total of 2,677 cases of communicable diseases was reported during the year, 1,589 of which were measles and 442 chickenpox.

The actual cost of the San Jose health department in 1939 was \$32,612, which represents an estimated per capita cost of forty cents. The revenues through fees totaled more than \$11,000, however, bringing the estimated per capita cost to 26.5 cents. The report is well printed and provides a comprehensive review of the accomplishments of the department during the year.

## STANISLAUS COUNTY ISSUES REPORT

The annual report for the Stanislaus County Health Department, of which Dr. E. F. Reamer is health officer, has just been issued. During 1939 there were 1,757 cases of communicable diseases reported, 851 of which were measles, 203 chickenpox, 218 mumps. Conspicuous reductions in diphtheria and smallpox were recorded.

Rabies showed a marked reduction in 1939. No individuals were known to have been bitten by rabid dogs. Seven individuals were given the Pasteur treatment because of close contact with rabid animals or because of handling sick dogs. A quarantine on dogs and cats was established for a six-month period.

Standard activities in child and maternal hygiene, tuberculosis control, dental care, vital statistics, sanitary food milk and dairy inspections were carried on. The work of the department was conducted at the minimum of expense, the total cost in 1939 having been \$35,190.

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The rural dweller in the United States has, on the average, four or five years longer life than the urban resident. Among white males dwelling in rural areas the average length of life is 62.09 years, while for urban residents, it is 56.73 years. The corresponding figures for white females are 65.09 years and 61.05 years. These figures are based on the calendar year 1930.—Louis L. Dublin, Ph. D.

**MORBIDITY****Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending April 6, 1940****Chickenpox**

716 cases: Alameda County 3, Alameda 2, Berkeley 4, Hayward 1, Oakland 65, San Leandro 1, Butte County 1, Contra Costa County 7, Pittsburg 2, Richmond 3, Fresno County 10, Fresno 10, Kern County 18, Bakersfield 12, Delano 1, Kings County 3, Hanford 14, Los Angeles County 69, Alhambra 13, Claremont 13, Compton 3, Culver City 5, El Segundo 1, Glendale 14, Huntington Park 4, Inglewood 2, Long Beach 67, Los Angeles 112, Pasadena 1, Redondo 1, San Fernando 1, San Gabriel 2, Santa Monica 2, South Pasadena 11, Whittier 2, Lynwood 5, South Gate 1, Monterey Park 1, Maywood 1, Bell 4, Madera County 5, Merced County 4, Monterey County 10, Pacific Grove 1, Orange County 1, Newport Beach 1, Santa Ana 1, Laguna Beach 4, Plumas County 2, Riverside County 10, Blythe 2, Riverside 10, Sacramento County 9, Sacramento 9, Ontario 4, Redlands 2, San Diego County 7, Escondido 1, La Mesa 6, National City 1, San Diego 11, San Francisco 50, Stockton 9, San Luis Obispo County 4, Paso Robles 2, Burlingame 2, San Bruno 1, San Carlos 2, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Barbara 4, Santa Maria 1, Santa Clara County 2, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 3, Sunnyvale 2, Solano County 2, Vacaville 1, Vallejo 1, Stanislaus County 7, Modesto 3, Tulare County 15, Ventura County 6, Ojai 2, California 1.\*

**Diphtheria**

11 cases: Oakland 1, Napa County 1, Colton 2, San Diego County 2, San Diego 1, Stockton 1, Stanislaus County 1, Sutter County 1, Ventura County 1.

**German Measles**

19 cases: Berkeley 2, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 1, Long Beach 1, Madera County 1, Anaheim 1, Fullerton 1, La Habra 1, Riverside County 1, San Diego 4, San Joaquin County 1, Burlingame 1, Santa Barbara 1, Solano County 1, Vallejo 1.

**Influenza**

162 cases: Oakland 1, Sutter Creek 1, Fresno County 2, Los Angeles County 16, El Monte 1, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 8, Los Angeles 15, San Marino 77, Merced County 22, Monterey County 4, Napa 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego County 2, Coronado 1, Lodi 1, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Cruz County 4, Watsonville 2, Tulare County 1.

**Malaria**

One case: San Francisco.

**Measles**

494 cases: Alameda 1, Oakland 3, San Leandro 1, Pittsburg 1, Fresno County 1, Fresno 1, Imperial County 8, Calexico 4, El Centro 2, Kern County 70, Bakersfield 26, Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 6, Alhambra 1, Los Angeles 16, Pasadena 1, San Fernando 6, Gardena 1, Madera 1, Los Banos 1, Monterey County 2, Orange County 2, Santa Ana 6, Placer County 3, Riverside 1, Sacramento County 2, Sacramento 9, San Bernardino County 1, Ontario 1, San Diego County 95, Coronado 2, El Cajon 2, Escondido 31, La Mesa 1, National City 8, San Diego 81, San Francisco 2, San Joaquin County 8, Stockton 5, San Luis Obispo 1, Palo Alto 1, Siskiyou County 9, Dunsmuir 1, Solano County 1, Modesto 1, Sutter County 1, Tulare County 44, Ventura County 4, Oxnard 2, Ventura 1, Yolo County 14.

**Mumps**

482 cases: Alameda County 2, Berkeley 3, Emeryville 1, Oakland 5, Butte County 2, Gridley 3, Fresno County 32, Clovis 1, Fresno 4, Selma 1, Kern County 3, Bakersfield 3, Delano 1, Kings County 19, Hanford 22, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 51, Glendale 18, Long Beach 37, Los Angeles 32, Montebello 1, San Fernando 3, Signal Hill 4, Gardena 1, Madera County 21, Ross 1, Merced County 3, Orange County 7, Anaheim 3, Orange 1, Santa Ana 6, Tustin 1, Riverside County 8, San Bernardino County 2, San Diego 4, San Francisco 50, San Joaquin County 5, Manteca 7, Stockton 4, San Luis Obispo County 6, Paso Robles 13, San Mateo County 21, Redwood City 4, San Mateo 1, Menlo Park 4, Santa Barbara County 5, Santa Clara County 11, Mountain View 2, San Jose 3, Palo Alto 9, Santa Cruz County 3, Stanislaus County 9, Modesto 1, Tulare County 12, Tulare 1, Ventura County 1, Marysville 3.

**Pneumonia (Lobar)**

52 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 2, Imperial County 1, Kern County 3, Los Angeles County 2, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 23, Pasadena 1, Santa Monica 1, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego 2, San Joaquin County 2, San Mateo County 1, Santa Barbara 3, Solano County 1, Ventura County 1, Ventura 1, Yuba County 3.

**Scarlet Fever**

130 cases: Berkeley 4, Oakland 5, San Leandro 2, Colusa County 1, Fresno County 5, Brawley 3, Kern County 2, Bakersfield 4, Los Angeles County 18, Arcadia 1, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 22, Monrovia 1, Pasadena

1, San Gabriel 1, Bell 1, Merced 1, Orange County 1, Santa Ana 1, Plumas County 1, Riverside County 1, Blythe 1, Corona 1, San Bernardino County 1, Ontario 2, San Diego County 2, La Mesa 1, San Diego 4, San Francisco 8, San Luis Obispo 1, Santa Barbara 1, San Jose 2, Sunnyvale 1, Santa Cruz County 4, Benicia 2, Stanislaus County 5, Sutter County 5, Tulare County 1, Lindsay 1, Porterville 1, Ventura County 2, Ventura 2, Yolo County 1, Woodland 1.

**Smallpox**

2 cases: Butte County 1, Chico 1.

**Typhoid Fever**

4 cases: El Centro 1, Los Angeles 1, Sacramento 1, San Francisco 1.

**Whooping Cough**

382 cases: Alameda County 5, Berkeley 1, Oakland 9, Fresno County 31, Fresno 5, Kern County 3, Bakersfield 3, Kings County 6, Los Angeles County 40, Compton 9, Culver City 1, Huntington Park 4, Los Angeles 33, Pasadena 8, San Gabriel 2, Whittier 2, Torrance 1, Lynwood 4, Bell 4, Madera County 1, Merced County 15, Los Banos 9, Monterey County 3, Orange County 1, Santa Ana 1, Placentia 1, Riverside County 21, Corona 4, Indio 1, Sacramento County 2, Sacramento 21, Ontario 7, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 2, Escondido 1, San Diego 14, San Francisco 16, Tracy 1, San Mateo County 1, Daly City 5, Santa Barbara County 5, Santa Barbara 6, Santa Clara County 10, Mountain View 1, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 23, Sunnyvale 1, Stanislaus County 8, Modesto 17, Tulare County 4, Lindsay 5.

**Meningitis (Epidemic)**

2 cases: Los Angeles 1, Tulare 1.

**Dysentery (Amoebic)**

One case: Los Angeles.

**Pellagra**

5 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 2, Tulare County 2.

**Poliomyelitis**

4 cases: Contra Costa County 1, Huntington Park 1, Sacramento 1, Tulare County 1.

**Tetanus**

2 cases: Los Angeles County 1, San Jose 1.

**Trachoma**

5 cases: Monterey County 1, Palm Springs 4.

**Typhus Fever**

One case: Los Angeles.

**Jaundice (Epidemic)**

3 cases: Paso Robles 2, Trinity County 1.

**Food Poisoning**

2 cases: San Francisco.

**Undulant Fever**

4 cases: Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Ontario 1, California 1.\*

**Septic Sore Throat**

One case: Hanford.

**Epilepsy**

42 cases: Oakland 5, Fresno County 2, Fresno 1, Los Angeles County 9, Los Angeles 24, Santa Ana 1.

**Rabies (Animal)**

5 cases: Berkeley 1, El Cerrito 1, Fresno County 1, Imperial County 1, Redwood City 1.

\* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.